

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15 and 16 remain active in this application, Claims 1 and 9 having been amended and Claims 5 and 14 canceled by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action the title was objected to as not being descriptive, Claims 1-3 and 9-12 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's cited prior art figures, in view of Oohashi (U.S. Pat. No. 6,602,751), and Claims 4-8 and 13-17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were otherwise indicated as including allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form.

In response to the objection to the title, the title has been amended to be more descriptive of the claimed invention, consistent with the disclosure at page 13, lines 13-16 of the specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added and the objection is believed to have been overcome.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, and to expedite issuance of a patent from the present application, Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable Claim 5 and Claim 9 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable Claim 14. Claims 5 and 9 have therefore been canceled.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment placing claims indicated as including allowable subject matter in independent form and amending the title to be more descriptive, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present application is

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believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect
is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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